Figure 8-5. A wind speed and direction (WSD) drifting buoy

8.2.1. National Hurricane Center (NHC). NHC forecasters will issue through the Tropical Cyclone Plan of the Day (TCPOD) an alert or outlook for drifting buoy deployment 48 hours prior to the planned deployment. Hard tasking for the deployment will be issued 24 hours prior to the event via the TCPOD.

8.2.2. Deployment Buoys. DOC may request the deployment of up to four drifting buoys between 185 and 333 km (100 and 180 nm) from the storm center, depending on the dynamics of the storm system. DOC will ensure the buoys and mission-related DOC personnel are available for pickup by AFRC aircraft. The specific DOC request for placement of the buoys will depend on several factors, including:

- Characteristics of the storm including size, intensity, and velocity.
- Storm position relative to the coast and population centers.

8.2.3. Deployment Position. The final deployment position will be provided prior to the flight crew briefing. Two examples of possible buoy deployment patterns are shown in Figure 8-6.

8.3. Communications. Moored buoy and C-MAN data are transmitted by ultrahigh frequency communications via the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES) to the National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) and then are relayed to the NWS Telecommunications Gateway (NWSTG) for processing and dissemination. Moored buoy data are formatted into the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) FM13-IX SHIP code, and C-MAN